

Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-02

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01

PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 /094 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4760

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

UNCLAS ASUNCION 1477

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, PFOR, XM, PA

SUBJECT: PARAGUAYAN REACTION TO SELA PROPOSAL

REF: ASUNCION 0888, 0917

1. IN A SERIES OF INTERVIEWS PUBLISHED BY LOCAL NEWS MAGAZINE, DIALOGO, GOP UNDERSECRETARY OF COMMERCE, BLAS CHAMORRO, AND WELL-KNOWN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR, ANTONIO SALUM-FLECHA, INDICATED THAT GOP WAS MAINTAINING A "WAIT AND SEE" ATTITUDE TOTARD THE PROPOSAL FOR A LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM (SELA).

2. SALUM-FLECHA, WHOSE PUBLISHED COMMENTS FREQUENTLY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE PARARAGUAYAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT "THUS FAR THE FUNCTIONAL
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AND OPERATIVE BASES OF SELA ARE NOW KNOWN" AND

THAT ONCE THEY ARE PUBLISHED, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO "ANALYSE THEM IN A FULL BLOWN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE WITH PARTICIPATION FROM ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS."

3. CONCERNING THE GOP'S ATTITUDE TOWARD SELA, SALUM-FLECHA SAID THAT THE SYMPATHETIC MANNER IN WHICH THE SELA PROPOSAL HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT MUST BE VIEWED IN THE CONTEXT OF HEMISPHERIC SOLIDARITY. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT FINAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL STILL DEPENDS ON A FULLER UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT SELA IS REALLY SUPPOSED TO ACCOMPLISH.

4. UNDERSECRETARY OF COMMERCE CHAMORRO'S COMMENTS DURING INTERVIEW, ALTHOUGH LESS PRECISE, SUPPORTED THOSE MADE BY SALUM-FLECHA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ECONOMIC INTEGRATION, PRESS CONFERENCES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ASUNCI01477
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750135-0858
From: ASUNCION
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750440/aaaabkpe.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ASUNCION 0888, 75 0917
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <30 JAN 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PARAGUAYAN REACTION TO SELA PROPOSAL
TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, PFOR, XM, PA, SELA, (CHAMORRO, BLAS), (SALUM-FLECHA, ANTONIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006